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Honors Committee

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University Honors Committee

Minutes—April 14, 2010

Chair Carol Wagner Williams called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. in 238 Millett Hall. Attending were Susan Carrafiello, Lynn Hartzler, Kathy Keister, Marty Kich, Jamie Plamondon, Tom Traynor, and Alex Wenning.

The minutes of the January 20, 2010, meeting were approved as submitted.

The UH 400 “Politics and Culture of Europe” course proposal submitted by Liam Anderson was approved.

The committee expressed overall support for the concept of the UH 400 “Big History” preliminary course proposal submitted by Bill Irvine and will entertain a formal course proposal at a later meeting. One committee member expressed concern about the way in which the setup of experiments might influence the outcomes.

Carrafiello reported that Pat Martin provided further clarification about the reading list and grading method of the UH 400 “The Importance of Culture in Health: The Japanese Experience” course proposal that was approved at the January 20 meeting.

The UH 400 “Ambassadors Program: Contemporary Japan” course proposal submitted by Myron Levine was approved.

Wenning updated the committee on the 2010 Incoming Competitive Honors Scholarship process. Almost 400 students completed an online Competitive Honors Scholarship application this year—a record number and the first year for online applications. The Incoming Competitive Honors Scholarship subcommittee consisted of Carrafiello, Finkelstein, Hartzler, Kich, and Wenning. The subcommittee made 80 offers to students. Thirty-eight have accepted, four have declined, and 36 are yet to respond. In comparison to Fall 2009, the subcommittee made 75 offers. Fifty-one of those accepted, 14 declined, and 10 did not respond. The 2010 Continuing Competitive Honors Scholarship selection process will soon be underway, with Hershberger, McWilliams, Wenning, and Wagner Williams serving on that subcommittee. Wenning will serve as facilitator for the subcommittee.

Carrafiello provided an update about the semester conversion. She also provided an update about the search for the next Assistant Director of the University Honors Program. The five finalists are visiting campus throughout this month.

Plamondon stated that the Student Honors Association (SHA) is working on a number of volunteer projects and will have upcoming meetings. Wenning reported that four students from SHA attended the Mideast Honors Association (MEHA) conference in Louisville, KY, March 26-28, to participate in a panel presentation with Carrafiello and Wenning. Wenning will serve as President of MEHA in 2010-11.

In other business, the committee discussed how members are assigned to the University Honors Committee; mentioned the upcoming Celebration of Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities symposium on April 16; and briefly discussed potential topics for the 2011 Honors Institute.

The meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alex Wenning